



Fishing Regulations

Fishing is allowed on the refuge from April 1 through September 30 of each year. Fishing is permitted from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. A valid New Mexico fishing license is required. Fishing is permitted in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations, including daily and possession limits.

Fishing is allowed on all of the canals within the refuge boundaries (Interior Drain, Riverside Canal, Low Flow Conveyance Channel). Access to the canals is via the tour loop. No fishing will be allowed in closed areas of the refuge, with the exception of the Low Flow Conveyance Channel. Fishing is also allowed in Unit 25AS either from the boardwalk or from shore. Boats or other floatation devices are prohibited.

Frogging for bullfrogs is allowed on the refuge from June 1 through August 15 in areas that are open to fishing. Frogging is permitted only from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. Interested persons must obtain a special use permit at the refuge visitor center free of charge.

The Low Flow Conveyance Channel is open to walk in fishing only. Parking is permitted outside the refuge boundary and at the River Trail parking lot.

Prohibited activities include: Trotlines, bows and arrows, boats or other floatation devices, seining, dip netting, cast netting, traps, using bait taken from the refuge, taking of turtles, littering, and all other activities not expressly permitted.

Hunting Regulations

State and Federal hunting regulations regarding methods of take, dates, bag limits, etc., apply to all hunting on the refuge, in addition to refuge specific regulations

Only shells containing USFWS approved non-toxic shot are permitted for and possession for shotgun hunting. Transportation of weapons across areas closed to hunting is allowed only when weapons are unloaded and cased. Do not shoot towards people, vehicles, pets, and trails.

Hunting of all species not expressly mentioned is prohibited.

Small Game hunting

Hunting for quail, rabbits, white-winged and mourning doves is allowed during the appropriate state hunting season. Areas open for small game hunting are from the railroad tracks west to the refuge boundary with the exception of Unit 3, which is closed to all hunting. Unit 3 is the area west of State Highway 1 where the water impoundments start north to the refuge boundary and west to the foothills, this area is adequately posted. Then from the east bank of the Rio Grande east to the refuge boundary. Bows and arrows are legal for rabbits as well as muzzle-loading shotguns for all small game.

Big Game Hunting

Hunting for mule deer is allowed during the state hunting season. Legal sporting arms are rifles, bow and arrows, and muzzle-loaders. Areas open for mule deer hunting are from the power lines west to the refuge boundary and then on the eastside of the refuge from the access road, east to the refuge boundary.

Oryx hunting is allowed from the east bank of the Rio Grande, east to the refuge boundary. Hunters possessing a valid New Mexico special year-round off range permit will be allowed to hunt oryx on the refuge during the concurrent state deer season. Legal sporting arms are rifles, bows and arrows, and muzzle-loaders. Contact refuge manager 505/835-1828 for special hunt dates.

Access on the west side of the railroad tracks is either by State Highway 1 or on the dirt road that accesses the gravel pits across from the Qwest telephone company transmitter stations. All other access to the west side of the refuge hunting areas is by foot only. Access to the east side of the refuge is via San Pedro on the north end. No access to the east side of the river is allowed through the actively managed portion of the refuge (i.e. River trail). Travel on both hunting portions of the refuge is either by foot or on horseback. No vehicles may be taken off established roads to retrieve down game.

Waterfowl

Snow goose and Ross's goose hunting is allowed on the refuge by special permit. Contact refuge manager, 505/835-1828 for further information on application process.

General

No canoeing, boating, or floating is allowed through the refuge on the Rio Grande. No hunting or fishing of any species is allowed on the Rio Grande. Hunting dogs must be kept on a leash when *not* hunting. Falconry hunting is not permitted on the refuge.

The signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Please respect all refuge signs whenever you see them as you travel throughout the refuge.



National Wildlife Refuge. This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult refuge management for authorized activities.



Area Closed. Certain areas of the refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.



No Hunting Zone. This sign marks the boundary of no hunting areas on the refuge. All hunting is prohibited beyond this sign.



Public Hunting Area. This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas. This is the only area where waterfowl hunting is allowed.

Hunting on all National Wildlife Refuges is a privilege, please respect it.

**Bosque del Apache
National Wildlife Refuge
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bosque del Apache *National Wildlife Refuge*

Hunting/Fishing

